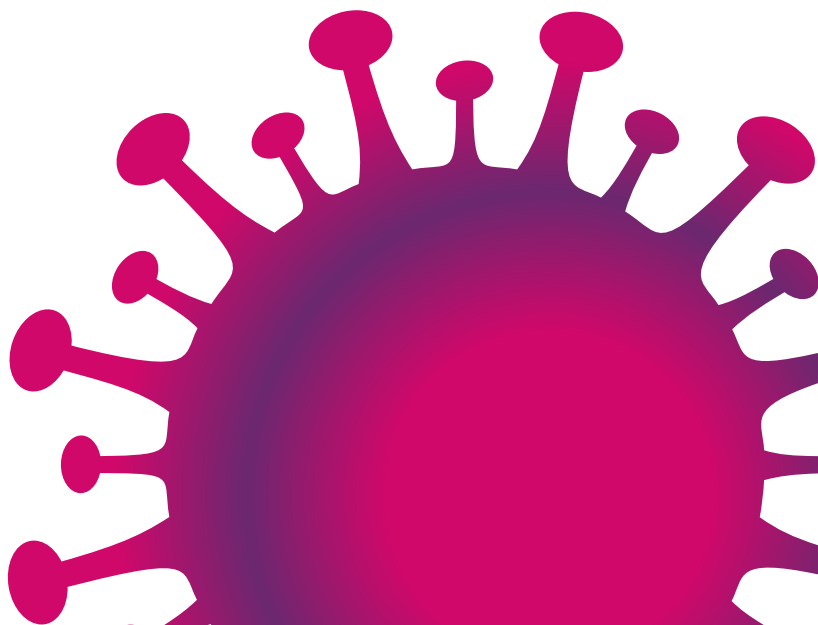
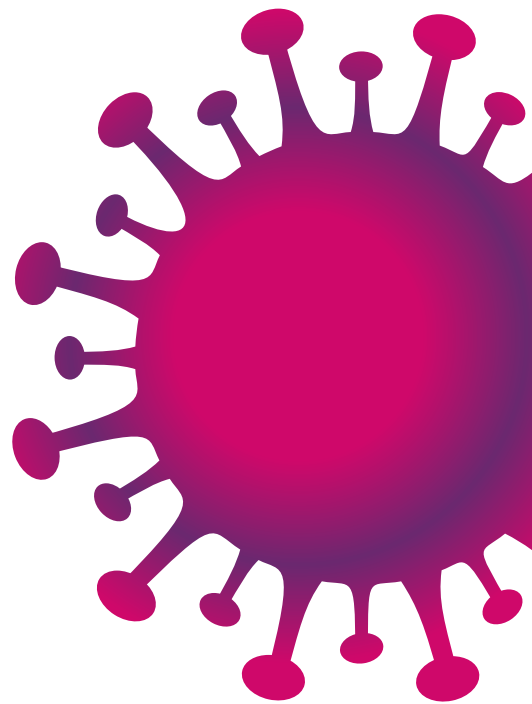


**COVID-19:
afPE**

**Curriculum and
Extra Physical
Education
Covid-19
Statement**

September 2020



afPE is aware that the recent guidance from gov.uk has raised many questions for workforce colleagues. It is perhaps understandable that with the range of guidance, the regularity of updates and the different settings for physical education (PE), school sport and physical activity that there may be difficulty with keeping up to date.

We have consulted widely in order to seek clarification so as to respond to the numerous enquiries that we have received.

Within the educational context, gov.uk is the only source for guidance documents and should be checked regularly. Importantly, the pertinent document is that which refers to 'returning to schools'.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

The decision regarding what constitutes a broad and balanced curriculum in your own school will be taken by your school leadership team. This will include how groups are managed in 'bubbles' to maintain consistent social groupings and how you operate your system controls. Below is afPE's interpretation of the guidance in order to support the workforce and ensure the safe teaching of PE and extra curricular activities which you may find helpful in planning your school's PE offer.

afPE advocates a broad and balanced PE curriculum is taught. This includes the following activity areas: dance, gymnastics, games, athletics, outdoor and adventurous activities and swimming. Physical activities from recognised sports can be taught through the physical domain and creative approaches will be needed to ensure they remain on the curriculum. Pupils should be kept in consistent groups and PE equipment should be thoroughly cleaned between each use by different groups/bubbles.

The DfE guidance sets out that "Both the approaches of separating groups and maintaining distance are not 'all-or-nothing' options and will still bring benefits even if implemented partially. Some schools may keep children in their class groups for the majority of the classroom time, but also allow mixing into wider groups for specialist teaching, wraparound care and transport." We understand that this means schools can choose to make an exception to their arrangements in order to hold fixtures in sports where NGBs have approved guidance which permits such fixtures, and where fixtures are operated in line with that guidance i.e. in sports where it would be possible to hold a non-school fixture. However, there is no obligation to engage in fixtures and schools should carry out a thorough risk assessment considering the implications should there be a positive Covid case and whether a fixture can be practically and safely carried out in the context of other considerations, such as restrictions on transport.

afPE's position at the current time

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is that school fixtures should be avoided, as this will involve contact across schools, and increase the opportunities for virus transmission. However, it is important to stress that it is the responsibility of every school to minimise risks and therefore avoid any activities/sports that increase the risk. Parents have every right to expect their children to be as safe as possible whilst in school. Community activities are different because parents/carers choose to let their children take part.

Curriculum School Swimming

As pupils prepare to return to classrooms across the country, Swim England published new guidance on 20 August 2020, for school swimming lessons.

Swimming and water safety lessons are a compulsory part of the national curriculum yet around one in five children leave primary school unable to swim.

The 29-page Returning to the Pool Guidance for School Swimming has been developed by Swim England in cooperation with industry partners, including local authorities, leisure operators, the Department for Education and the Association for Physical Education (afPE). It shows how swimming lessons can be held safely and gives teachers the necessary information about booking procedures plus what to do before leaving the school, on arrival at the pool and in the water itself.

Highlighted in the guidance are the continued requirements for social distancing and enhanced hygiene regimes, along with guidelines on how this will impact on the different experience the pool user will have.

<https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/pool-return-guidance-documents>

Examination PE

All of the examination boards are involved in the consultation process with Ofqual looking at how examinations and practical assessments can operate effectively during the current restrictions. The boards will be operating under Government guidance and this will inform their own recommendations. It is therefore important that you contact your own Board and remain in regular communication in order to ensure you are aware of any changes and timescales for future developments.

Transport

Updated guidance around transportation has been produced and should be used to develop your own policy.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020>

Remember, that your risk assessments must be amended on an ongoing basis in order to reflect each school's specific controls; these should also be updated whenever there is a significant change in government guidance. In these ever-changing times this is likely to necessitate more regular reviews than may previously have been undertaken and it is crucial that dynamic risk assessments must be carried out.

It is important to remember that the 'employer' and the DfE guidance should be followed for Physical Education, School Sport, and Physical Activity, in an educational context. afPE will continue to provide updates to members via the newsletter as well as posting information on the afPE open website www.afpe.org.uk.



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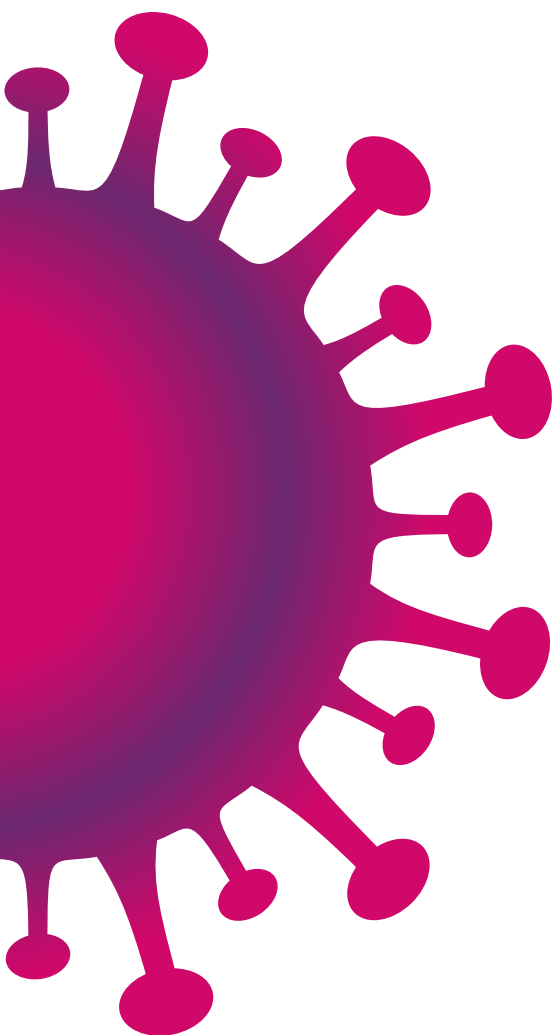
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Contact Us

Association for Physical Education
117 Bredon
University of Worcester
Henwick Grove
Worcester
WR2 6AJ

Charity Commission Number: 1114673
Tel: 01905 855 584
Email: enquiries@afpe.org.uk
Web: www.afpe.org.uk
Twitter: [@afPE_PE](https://twitter.com/afPE_PE)



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